



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

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October 26, 2007
FB07-043

NOAA Fisheries Service Seeking Public Comments on a Proposed Control Date for the For-Hire Fishery in Federal Waters of the South Atlantic

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries Service) is seeking public comment on an advanced notice of proposed rulemaking to establish a control date of March 8, 2007, for the for-hire fishery (charter and headboats) in the EEZ of the South Atlantic.

A control date is a date chosen by a fishery management council and may be used by the council or NOAA Fisheries Service as an eligibility criterion allowing future access to fisheries, or sectors of fisheries. Control date notices let fishermen know that a Fishery Management Council is considering future action to restrict access to the fishery and are intended to discourage speculative entry into a fishery.

At the June 2007 Council meeting, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) voted to establish a control date for all for-hire permits issued in the south Atlantic exclusive economic zone in order to address the rapidly increasing number of participants in the fishery.

The establishment of this control date does not commit the Council or NOAA Fisheries Service to any particular management regime or criteria for entry into this fishery. Fishermen would not be guaranteed future participation in the fishery regardless of their entry date or intensity of participation in the fishery before or after the control date under consideration.

The Council may choose to use a different control date, or to give variably weighted consideration to fishermen active in the fishery before and after the control date. Other qualifying criteria, such as documentation of landings and sales, may be considered for entry into the fishery.

The Council may choose to take no further action to control entry or access to the fishery, in which case the control date may be rescinded.

Request for Comments

Written comments on this proposed rule must be received no later than 5 p.m., Eastern time, on November 26, 2007, in order to be considered by NOAA Fisheries Service. See the **Addresses** section for information on where and how to submit comments.

Addresses

Electronic copies of the advanced notice of proposed rulemaking, published in the Federal Register on October 26, 2007, may be obtained from the Federal Register Web site at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>, or by sending a written request to:

NOAA Fisheries Service
Southeast Regional Office
Sustainable Fisheries Division
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- Electronic Submissions: Federal e-Rulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>, click on "Search For Dockets" at the top of the screen, then enter the following identifier: 0648-AW03 in the "RIN" field and click the "Submit" button. Click on the yellow icon in the upper right hand corner of the screen to submit comments for this action. All comments received are part of the public record and will generally be posted to <http://www.regulations.gov> without change. All personal identifying information (for example, name, address, etc.) voluntarily submitted by the

commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information or otherwise sensitive or protected information. NOAA Fisheries Service will accept anonymous comments. Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word, Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

- Mail: Kate Michie
NOAA Fisheries Service
Southeast Regional Office
Sustainable Fisheries Division
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701
- Fax: 727-824-5308, Attention: Kate Michie

How Can We Improve These Fishery Bulletins?

If you have any suggestions on how we may improve the contents of future fishery bulletins please contact:
Kim Amendola, Communication Specialist,
Phone: 727-551-5707, FAX: 727-824-5320,
e-mail: sero.communications.comments@noaa.gov.

If you would like to receive these fishery bulletins via e-mail as soon as they are published, please e-mail us at the address below. You will still receive a hard copy of these bulletins through the mail.

E-mail: sero.communications.comments@noaa.gov
and include:

1. "Request for Electronic Fishery Bulletins" in the subject line.
2. Your preferred e-mail address in the body of the e-mail.

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